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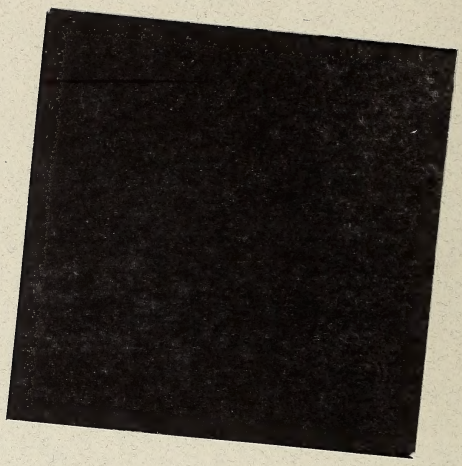
Meeting global demands . . . Alberta's wood products



A global approach

Alberta's abundant forest resource is managed on a "sustainable yield" basis.

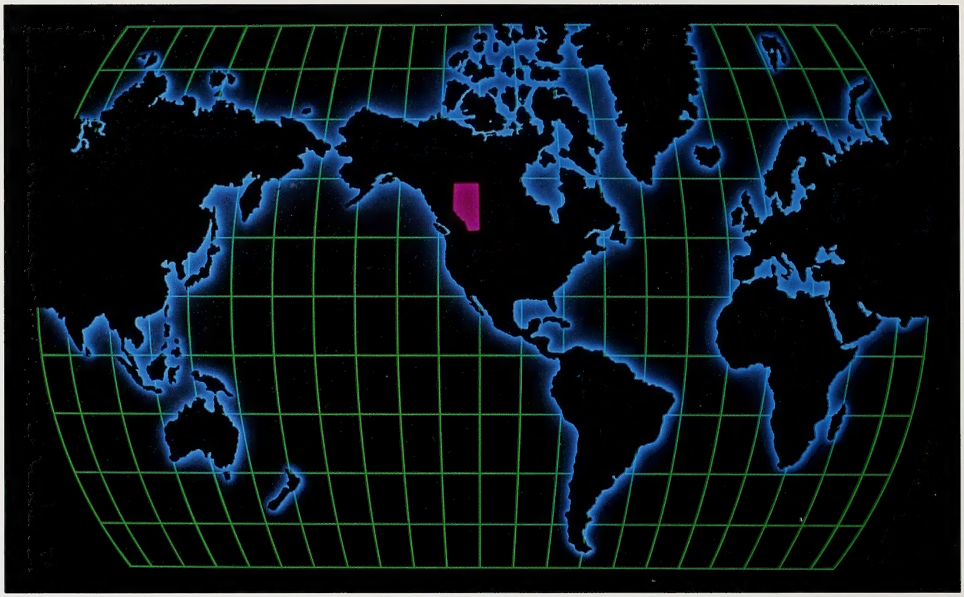
Alberta spruce and pine forests are a source of quality primary forest products for international markets.

The Alberta government's timber harvesting guidelines, coupled with industry's commitment to reforestation, ensure the quality and sustainability of the resource for years to come. This "sustainable yield" approach to the harvest and regeneration of Alberta's forests is matched by a growing commitment to marketing and to meeting customer needs.

Expanding global markets are increasing the demand for high quality wood products and finishing materials in construction, furniture components and millwork.

In addition to vast stands of white spruce and lodgepole pine, Alberta has mixed wood stands which include aspen.

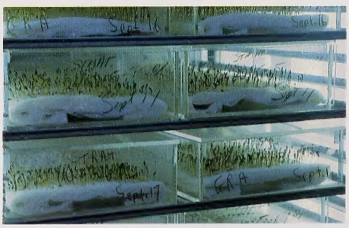
Alberta forest products and our forest industry's reputation for reliable service are a welcome addition to the international marketplace.



Alberta's wood products are competitive on a global basis.

vast resources of healthy, high quality softwoods and hardwoods

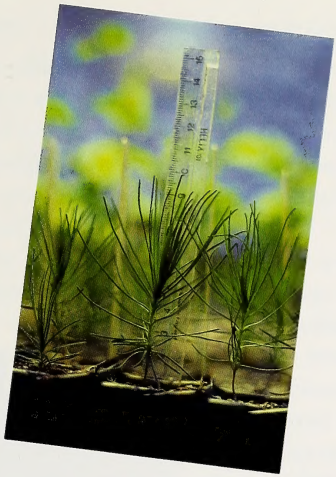
From healthy stands of indigenous white spruce, lodgepole pine and aspen (poplar), Alberta's forest products industries supply solid wood products with a sales value exceeding half a billion dollars a year . . . and this figure is rising.



Research in forest genetics is improving the quality of Alberta's future forests.

responsible forest management

Industry and government work in close cooperation to guarantee effective forest management. Far-sighted provincial policies ensure sustainable development by allowing only as much of the forest to be harvested annually as is regenerated naturally or replanted within that year. These sustainable harvests protect the forest resource for future generations.



Millions of seedlings are planted each year in Alberta.

Regeneration of harvested areas is the responsibility of the forest products companies.

Forest products companies assume reforestation responsibilities to maintain a renewable supply of consistent quality product.

At centres like Pine Ridge Forest Nursery, seedlings are nurtured to regenerate harvested forest lands. Research in applied genetics to improve growing stock will lead to generations of superior trees and increased productivity.

efficient transportation systems

Alberta's comprehensive road and rail networks ensure efficient distribution of forest products. Inland container terminals speed delivery to customers in Canada and overseas.

The industry uses a variety of services to carry out efficient shipping, aided by organizations such as the Alberta Forest Products Shippers Association and Alberta Intermodal Services. Our well-developed transportation systems guarantee forest products are carried quickly to coastal ports and save overseas customers time and money.

Alberta's road and rail networks contribute to the efficient transportation of forest products.

Advances in both wood technology and product test design take place at the Alberta Research Council.

The Alberta Research Council is the centre for forest products research in the province.

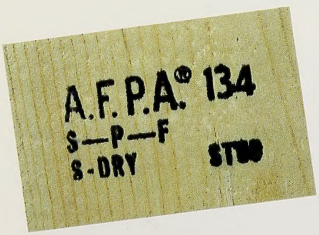
on-going research and development

The Alberta government and the forest products industry support on-going product testing, research and development at the Alberta Research Council, universities, and through the private sector. Advances in wood technology and the design of new product tests take place at the Alberta Research Council and in a variety of private establishments throughout the province.

customer satisfaction

International customers will find Alberta companies willing to cut the highest grades of lumber and finished products to customer specifications. New technology and a genuine desire to distribute superior products in specialty markets make mutually beneficial producer/buyer relationships possible.

While shipments of sawn timber can easily be supplied by individual species, they are also available in the familiar combination of S-P-F (Spruce-Pine-Fir).



Alberta lumber

White spruce *(Picea glauca)* and lodgepole pine *(Pinus contorta latifolia)* are the main species used to produce Alberta lumber.

Our northern climate encourages slow growth and produces close-grained, structurally superior trees. The long wood fibres in Alberta's spruce and pine mean strong, lightweight, pliant wood with excellent characteristics for a variety of purposes. Consistent, light-coloured, tight-knotted spruce and pine logs are processed into quality wood products.

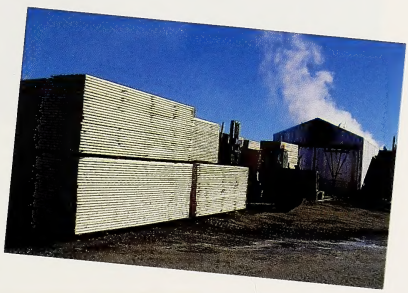
Alberta lumber is ideal for building and framing components of residential and commercial buildings.

Widely used in North America, Alberta lumber is ideal for building and framing components of residential homes and commercial buildings. Alberta lumber is also remanufactured for use as moulding, furniture, panelling and flooring.

While softwood timber currently dominates the industry, new applications are making native hardwoods, especially aspen and poplar, increasingly desireable. As a result, a growing number of companies are considering the production of aspen lumber.

New applications make Alberta's aspen resource more desirable for lumber, pulp and specialty products.

Most Alberta lumber is kiln-dried to reduce moisture content and satisfy phytosanitary requirements. This process also reduces weight, lowers transportation costs, and guarantees that the lumber meets specific market demand. Alberta's low natural gas costs make kiln drying an economical practice.



Kiln schedules are regulated for individual species and customer needs.

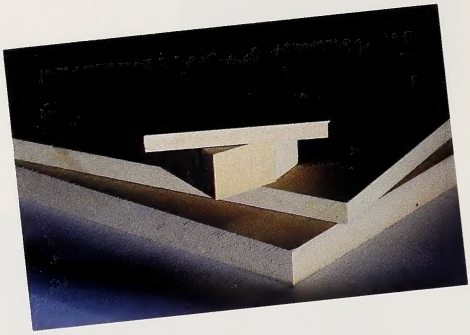
Products are graded in accordance to National Lumber Grading Association (NLGA) rules and can be tested on a per shipment basis for compliance with specific customer needs.

To ensure lumber meets high quality standards, stringent quality control guidelines are enforced by certified inspectors of the Alberta Forest Products Association (AFPA). These independent inspectors visit mills at random to test and make certain graded lumber meets the required quality standard.

Alberta Forest Products Association inspectors regularly examine mill products to maintain quality.

Effective June 1, 1990, Alberta Forest Products Association inspectors are accredited to inspect lumber grade to BS4978:1988 for shipment to the United Kingdom.

Alberta MDF



MDF, medium density fibreboard, is a panel product manufactured from spruce and pine sawmill by-products such as sawdust, shavings and chips.

Combined with a synthetic resin, these materials give MDF physical and finishing properties which make it an attractive alternative to traditional materials in the furniture industry.

Medium-density fibreboard (MDF) panels are pliant and durable.

MDF is used for:

- furniture
- moulding
- shelving, countertops, kitchen cabinets
- panelling
- sub-flooring
- decking, siding, door core
- roof and wall sheathing

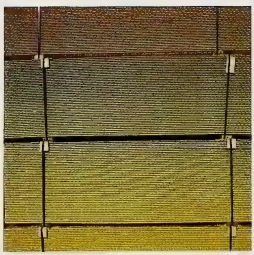
MDF is an attractive alternative to traditional materials in the furniture industry.

Lasers are used to cut furniture patterns from MDF.

Alberta plywood and OSB

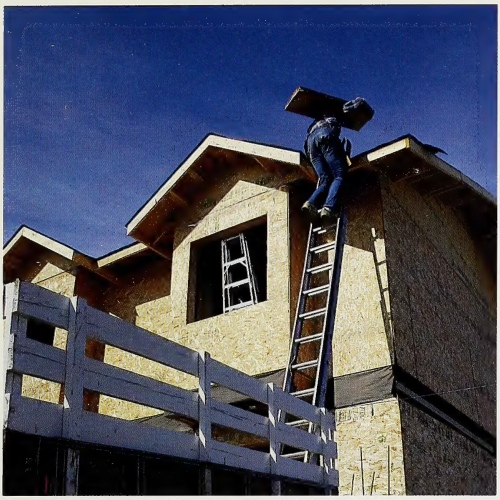
Alberta products are used in a variety of construction applications.

Alberta plywood is highly regarded in many international markets. White spruce is the main species used in the production of sheathing grade plywood panels.

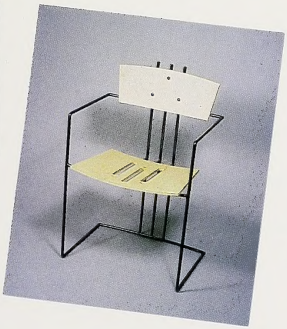


OSB, oriented strandboard, is one of Alberta's most successful new products. This structural panel is made of long, thin strands of aspen or poplar bonded together under intense heat and pressure with a waterproof phenolic resin.

The rigid flat exterior grade panel meets all the performance standards necessary for residential and commercial construction.



Alberta plywood and OSB are used for sub-flooring and wall and roof sheathing.



Building inspectors and builders in many countries find Alberta plywood and OSB excellent products to be used as:

- wall and roof sheathing
- sub-flooring
- pallets and industrial packaging
- specialty furniture
- building components

For more information

Training of lumber graders is provided by the Alberta Forest Products Association as part of its commitment to maintain quality products.

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